

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 AID-20 /130 W

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O 071505Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7247

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, US

SUBJ: FINNISH COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO MAKE

PROPAGANDA ISSUE OF US DOD EXPENDITURES IN

FINLAND

FOR JOHN OWENS, EUR/NE

1. A FEW DAYS AGO A VERY SMALL ARTICLE APPEARED IN PROVINCIAL TURUN PAIVALEHTI PUBLICATION, ALLEGING THAT THE PENTAGON WAS TRYING TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN FINLAND BY GIFTS AND BUYING INTO COMPANIES AND UNIVERSITIES. THE STORY WAS SO OBVIOUSLY AND OUT-RAGEOUSLY WITHOUT ANY BASIS, THAT NO OTHER PAPERS TOOK IT SERIOUSLY.

2. AT LEAST NOT UNTIL COMMUNIST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ENSIO LAINE ON MARCH 5 SUBMITTED A FORMAL QUESTION TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE MATTER. THE REPLY MUST BE GIVEN WITHIN 30 DAYS. THIS WAS DULY REPORTED IN COMMUNIST MAIN ORGAN KANSAN UUTISET.

3. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT ONE OF BRIGHTER COMMUNIST TV SCRIPT WRITERS, OLAVI LAINE, IS IN THE PROCESS OF
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PREPARING A TV "EXPOSURE" SHOW ON THE SUBJECT. WE DO

NOT KNOW WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE TO STOP THIS, OR HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE, BUT IN ORDER TO TRY, WE NEED ALL THE FACTS THAT WE CAN GET. SINCE MOST OF THE ALLEGED US DOD EXPENDITURES REFER BACK TO THE 1967-1971 PERIOD, NEITHER EMBASSY, USIS, OR DAO "CORPORATE MEMORY" HAS MUCH THAT IS USEFUL.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE INFORMATION THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE USING IS TAKEN OUT OF A CANADIAN-PUBLISHED BOOK ENTITLED "HOW TO BUY A COUNTRY," WHICH IN TURN GIVES AS ITS SOURCE REPLIES PROVIDED TO QUESTIONS BY THE RECORDS AND MANAGEMENT BRANCH, CORRESPONDENCE AND DIRECTIVES DIVISION, OASD (C), PENTAGON. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN BOOK, DOD PRIME CONTRACT AWARDS IN FINLAND DURING FISCAL YEARS 1970-1972 WERE AS FOLLOWS: 1970: BRITISH PREPARATORY SCHOOL INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM SUPPLY (DOLS 13,000) (THIS WE DO KNOW ABOUT); LAPUA CARTRIDGE FACTORY (DOLS 86,000); OY SAKO AB (GUN FACTORY) (DOLS 26,000); TOTAL DOLS 125,000; 1971: TURKU UNIVERSITY (DOLS 100,000), AND US COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (DOLS 10,000); TOTAL: DOLS 110,000. FOR DOD GRANTS FOR BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TRANSFER OF TITLE TO GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT (1) AND DOD GRANTS TO EDUCATIONAL AND NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING MILITARY PRIME CONTRACTS OF DOLS 10,000 OR MORE FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION WORK (2) THE FOLLOWING FIGURES ARE GIVEN (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS): HELSINKI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (1) 1967: 13.9, 1969: 22.9; UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI (1) 1971: 3; INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (2) 1968: 16; 1969: 20; MAKING FIVE YEAR TOTALS FOR THE 1967-71 PERIOD OF DOLS 37,890 FOR CATEGORY (1) AND DOLS 36,000 FOR CATEGORY (2).

5. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN BOTH TRY TO ABORT PLANNED TV PROGRAM AND PROVIDE USEFUL MATERIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, WHO MIGHT WELL BE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THAT WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE SOME ANSWER IN PARLIAMENT (SO FAR THE GOF CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION FROM US).

6. THE DAO, AT OUR SUGGESTION, IS ALSO CHECKING DIRECTLY THROUGH THEIR CHANNELS. USIS IS VERY MUCH IN THE PICTURE, AND THE WHOLE MATTER IS BEING HANDLED AS A COUNTRY TEAM EFFORT. APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FROM HERE.

KREHBIEL

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